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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all USINNI Members and friends. The (little bit of) snow we had is gone. The sun has been warmly shining. We are being blessed with an early spring. Let us just hope that we will not be paying for it later this summer.

I would first like to congratulate Ms. Corinne Stewart for coming on board as our USINNI Special Events Coordinator. She is a very welcome addition to our Board of Directors. I just



**95th Anniversary
April 1, 1924 to
April 1, 2019**

hope she does not mind very early Saturday morning (0630) meetings. (Inside humour).

As you may all be aware, this month the USINNI is pleased to present a special guest speaker, Cdr. Blair Saltel, CD, Commanding Officer, HMCS Calgary. Please remember to invite any of your friends that may be interested. We do ask that you give us notice of your attendance either through contact with one of our telephone coordinators or email/voice to myself.

Continued on page 4...

MILITARY AND SECURITY MUSINGS

HAY DAYS FOR CHINA

Nanaimo, 25 March 2019...I've been leafing back through old Mus-ing Columns, confirming that I've become a bit of a bore & a nag when it comes to the People's Republic of China. I have & I am, but I think I have sound grounds for my concerns. My own collection of columns is incomplete, but I count eight columns, in just the last seven years, about Red Chinese lurking under our beds! If all comes off as expected, our next Featured Speaker will be sharing some much more

"contemporary first-hands on" thoughts than are my own on our important vulnerable interests out at the western reaches of the Pacific Ocean. Back in April 2013 I suggested that China has "just about" settled its declared land claims on Mainland Asia. The principal remaining irritant is with India over the previously independent Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan. China's interests there rest in the claim that the now-republican Bhutan is an

Continued on page 3...

... HAY DAYS FOR CHINA ... continued from page 1

“unrecovered” part of Tibet. For India, Chinese continued ambitions over Bhutan compounds the threats to India’s vulnerable 14-mile-wide land link to Eastern India, with the latter penned in by Nepal, Chinese Tibet, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Of course, the real stake in all of this may be found in the icefields of the Himalayas, which are a vital source for fresh water for much of South-East Asia.

However, aside from this ongoing Himalayan dispute with India, China’s real territorial aspirations are to be found in the China Seas. Members will remember the now notorious “nine-dash line



boundary” drawn by China to delineate Chinese national waters in the China Seas. While the International Court of Justice ruled in 2016 that China was abridging & violating the rights of the Philippines to the latter’s national waters, China simply “go-to-hell-like” denies that decision to be enforceable.

The so-called Law-of-the-Seas is based on the simple premise that any ship shall the right of peaceful passage on the High Seas as opposed to managed passage through Territorial Waters. The “reach out-to-sea” to differentiate between the two was originally set at the length of a canon shot, then set over the years progressively at one, three and currently twelve nautical miles.

Even this is complexed by exceptions for exclusive or shared fishing or economic rights and zones.

In the face of almost universal condemnation,

**... “China’s real
territorial aspirations
are to be found
in the
China Seas.”**



China has gone ahead with the clearance of other nationals from waters, islands, islets, reefs and simple promontories in what the Chinese claim to be their territorial waters. China has declined to submit other claimant objections to arbitration, but has offered to settle disputes directly, *mano a mano* without any outside “interference.” Over the course of the half dozen years, China has already consolidated its occupation of the Gulf of Tonkin’s Parcel Islands, having forcibly displaced Vietnamese from the Islands years earlier.

Meanwhile, China’s infrastructure constructions continue apace on a number of naval and military bases on “recovered land” in the South China Sea. Four airfields have either already been constructed or are under construction, with warships and combat aircraft deployments also already underway. In a very practical way and sense, China is successfully redefining the range of canon shot in 21st Century terms, all to China’s satisfaction. *Realpolitik*, *Force Majeure*, and patience are carrying the day.

Continued on page 3...

**President's Message
Continued from page 1**

For the May 8th luncheon, Dr. Jim Bouthillier will present us with a strategic analysis of the situation in the West Pacific and China's resurgence. A very important and timely presentation.

I also wish to extend a very warm congratulations to the Royal Canadian Air Force and all its members, both past and present on their the celebration of the 95th Anniversary of the RCAF this month.

Hope to see you all next week.

Edwin

**... HAY DAYS FOR CHINA ...
continued from page 2**

And, well you may ask: where can we expect the next canon shot to land? The when is uncertain, but the where is almost certainly going to be Taiwan.

This Musing Column is by Colonel (Retd) WJ (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, a Past President of our Institute and long-time Chair of our Military & Security Committee. The Column is a product of his own research and the views expressed are his own.





**UNITED SERVICES
INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO
& NORTH ISLAND**



IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

**COMMANDER BLAIR SALTEL, CD
COMMANDING OFFICER
HMCS CALGARY**





AS OUR SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
AT OUR MONTHLY LUNCHEON/MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019, 1130 AM

TO BE HELD AT THE
**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 257
7227 LANTZVILLE ROAD
LANTZVILLE, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

GUESTS VERY WELCOME. PRESENTATION INCLUDES HOT BUFFET LUNCH
\$25.00 PER PERSON, BUSINESS ATTIRE


SEATING IS LIMITED.
**WE PLEASE ASK THAT YOU ADVISE US OF YOUR INTENT TO ATTEND
SO THAT WE MAY PLAN ACCORDINGLY.**

ejpeeters@shaw.ca or 250-751-2360 or 250-739-3783

Note From the Editor

This a picture of the new Canadian CADPAT I was sent by an insider this past week.

What do you think?



This month's Luncheon/Meeting will be held at

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 257

7727 LANTZVILLE ROAD

on

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2019

1130 HOURS

\$25.00 per member/person.

LUNCHEON MEETING ATTENDANCE

Your telephone contact coordinator will attempt to contact you in the days prior to our monthly luncheon/meeting in order to confirm your attendance. In this manner we can provide attendance numbers to the volunteer kitchen staff at RCL 257 so that they may prepare adequately for our function.

If for some reason she has missed you, please contact her or Edwin at 250-751-2360 or ejpeeters@shaw.ca.

A thru E

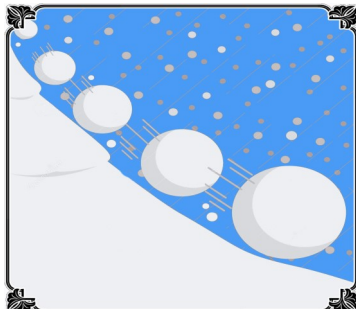
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250-756-0223

N thru Z

Paula Francis
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USINNI SNOWBALL

We did not have a winner at our last Luncheon Meeting so as always the 'pot' has been carried over. You can't play if you are not in attendance and signed in.

Good luck to all.